

Application Serial No. 10/530,689
Response to August 10, 2006 Final OA

LO28-023

In the Claims**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An objective, which is assembled from a number of individual housing structures, optical elements being arranged in each housing structure, wherein at least one first housing structure having portions comprising a plurality of seats on which one or more further housing structures are adjusted and are connected to said first housing structure; and

wherein at least one first of the plurality of the seats is provided for the purpose of adjusting and mounting of at least one optical element or optical subassembly in said first housing structure, and wherein the at least one first seat is angled relative to at least one other seat, and the angle being greater than 0°;

wherein said plurality of the seats are provided on external surfaces of said first housing structure;

wherein provided as said external surfaces is the at least one first seat that runs at an angle of (<) less than 30°, in particular at least approximately parallel, to a first optical axis;
and

wherein provided as said further external surfaces are two mutually parallel seats which lie at an angle of (<) less than 30°, in particular at least approximately parallel, to a further optical axis.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Original) The objective according to claim 1, wherein the objective is a projection objective in microlithography for producing semiconductor components.

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4. (Original) The objective according to claim 1, wherein a number of optical axes being formed by said housing structures.

Claims 5-7 (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The objective according to claim 6 1, wherein said at least one first seat is arranged at least approximately perpendicular, at an angle of ($>$) greater than 60° to the mutually parallel seats.

9. (Currently amended) The objective according to claim 7 1, wherein a fourth seat is provided at an angle to said at least one first seat and to the two mutually parallel seats.

10. (Previously presented) The objective according to claim 9, wherein said fourth seat is arranged at an angle of $45^\circ \pm 15$ to the at least one first seat and to said two mutually parallel seats, and wherein arranged on said fourth seat is a deflecting mirror for producing a third optical axis for a second housing structure.

11. (Previously presented) The objective according to claim 10, wherein said second housing structure is provided with at least one seat on which one or more further optical elements arranged in substructures, or subassemblies of optical elements are adjusted and connected to said second housing structure.

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12. (Original) The objective according to claim 10, wherein said second housing structure is provided with at least one further seat, wherein said at least one further seat connects said first housing structure with said second housing structure.

13. (Original) The objective according to claim 12, wherein the junction between said first housing structure and said second housing structure is formed by the seats of said first housing structure and of said second housing structure.

14. (Original) The objective according to claim 12, wherein said second housing structure is provided with at least two further seats, one seat running perpendicular to the seat, and the further seat running perpendicular to the further seat and to the seat via which said second housing structure is connected to said first housing structure.

15. (Original) A projection exposure machine for producing semiconductor components, comprising an objective according to claim 1.

16. (Original) The projection exposure machine for producing semiconductor components according to claim 15, for using light with a wavelength of less than 360 nm.

17. (Currently amended) The objective according to claim 1, wherein the angle of the at least one first seat relative to the at least one other seat comprises less than 30°.

18. (Currently amended) The objective according to claim 1, wherein the angle of the at least one first seat relative to the at least one other seat comprises greater than 60°.

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19. (Currently amended) The objective according to claim 1, wherein the angle of the at least one first seat relative to the at least one other seat comprises a range of about 30° to about 60°.

20. (Previously presented) An objective, which is assembled from a number of individual housing structures, optical elements being arranged in each housing structure, wherein at least one first housing structure is provided with seats on which one or more further housing structures are adjusted and are connected to said first housing structure;

wherein a number of optical axes being formed by said housing structures;

wherein provided is at least one first seat that runs at an angle of (<) less than 30°, in particular at least approximately parallel, to a first optical axis;

wherein provided are two mutually parallel seats which lie at an angle of (<) less than 30°, in particular at least approximately parallel, to a further optical axis; and

further comprising a fourth seat arranged at an angle of $45^\circ \pm 15$ to the first seat and to said two mutually parallel seats, and wherein arranged on said fourth seat is a deflecting mirror for producing a third optical axis for a second housing structure.

21. (Previously presented) The objective according to claim 20, wherein said second housing structure is provided with at least one further seat, wherein said at least one further seat connects said first housing structure with said second housing structure.

22. (Previously presented) The objective according to claim 21, wherein the junction between said first housing structure and said second housing structure is formed by the seats of said first housing structure and of said second housing structure.

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23. (Previously presented) The objective according to claim 21, wherein said second housing structure is provided with at least two further seats, one seat running perpendicular to the seat, and the further seat running perpendicular to the further seat and to the seat via which said second housing structure is connected to said first housing structure.

24. (Previously presented) The objective according to claim 20, wherein said seats are provided on external surfaces of said first housing structure.

25. (Previously presented) An objective, which is assembled from a number of individual housing structures, optical elements being arranged in each housing structure, wherein at least one first housing structure is provided with seats on which one or more further housing structures are adjusted and are connected to said first housing structure;

wherein said seats are provided on external surfaces of said first housing structure;

wherein provided as said external surfaces is at least one first seat that runs at an angle of ($<$) less than 30° , in particular at least approximately parallel, to a first optical axis;

wherein provided as said further external surfaces are two mutually parallel seats which lie at an angle of ($<$) less than 30° , in particular at least approximately parallel, to a further optical axis;

wherein a fourth seat is provided at an angle to said first seat and to the two mutually parallel seats; and

wherein said fourth seat is arranged at an angle of $45^\circ \pm 15$ to the first seat and to said two mutually parallel seats, and wherein arranged on said fourth seat is a deflecting mirror for producing a third optical axis for a second housing structure.